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Our Reference: CSA-101-B

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Henry Colombo and Bernard M. Licata

Serial Number: 10/039,805

RECEIVED

Filing Date: October 19, 2001

JAN 02 2003

Examiner/Art Group Unit: Dunwoody, Aaron M./3679

GROUP 3600

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
FORMING LEAK-PROOF COUPLING FOR
BEVERAGE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

**COMMUNICATION
AND RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated November 19, 2002 and further in light of the enclosed Amendment, the Applicant elects Group II, claims 12 - 14 **with traverse**. The attached amendment to the claims presents linking claims, which link together the inventions as claimed in claims 1 - 14. Upon entry of the attached amendment, the Applicant requests reconsideration of the restriction requirement regarding Groups I and II.

In the claims:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for forming a sealed joint between two thin walled metallic pipe ends of an overhead pipe system for enclosing a plurality of fluid conduits comprising the steps of:

positioning the two pipe ends with an alignment device in an abutted end to end orientation;

applying a sealer tape to the abutted ends of the two pipes; and

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING AND TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted with this document is a Postcard; a Communication and Response to Restriction Requirement; and a check for \$36.00 in the above-identified application.

- X A check in the amount of \$36.00 is attached.
- X Please charge any deficiency or credit any excess in the enclosed fees to Deposit Account Number 25-0115.
- X Applicant(s), and the Assignee (if applicable), hereby assert a claim to small entity status under 37 CFR 1.9 et. seq.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on **December 19, 2002**.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & BASILE, P.C.

Darlene P. Condra

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